



Report of the

Consultation Meeting of Cluster/Subcluster
Coordinators and
Co-coordinators (AUC and UN)

On

The Functioning of the Cluster System of
the Regional Coordination Mechanism - Africa (RCM-
Africa)

30 June 2010

UNCC, ECA

Addis Ababa

Introduction

1. The 10th session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM-Africa) held on 5-6 November 2009 underlined that *“UN system organizations need to work more closely with the different Departments within the AUC. This would enable the AUC/NEPAD to tap more effectively into the expertise and resources available from the RCM and its Clusters”*. To this end, it recommended that - *a meeting should be organized involving all Cluster Coordinators and Co-coordinators (AUC and UN) at the senior management level before the end of the year to discuss issues including information sharing and flow, the functioning of the RCM as a whole, and the Clusters, as well as the review of the Ten-Year Capacity Building programme.*
2. In response to the recommendation above, the RCM-Africa Secretariat in collaboration with its partners convened a one-day “Consultation meeting of Cluster/Subcluster Coordinators and Co-coordinators (AUC and UN) on the Functioning of the Cluster System of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM)” on 30 June 2010 at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) in Addis Ababa.
3. The African Union Commission and UN System Organizations represented the following Clusters and Subclusters: Governance Cluster, Social and Human Development Cluster, Science and Technology Cluster, Advocacy and Communication Cluster, Peace and Security Cluster and Industry, Trade and Market Access Cluster, Water Subcluster, Education and Human Resources Subcluster, Gender and Development Subcluster, Labour and Employment Subcluster, Peace and Security Architecture of the AU Subcluster, Post conflict Reconstruction and Development Subcluster and Human Rights, Justice, and Reconciliation Subcluster. Some of the RCM UNECA Focal points also participated in the meeting.
4. The main objective of the meeting was to provide a forum for an informal and open consultation among RCM-Africa Clusters and Subclusters coordinators and co-coordinators and the Secretariat, in order to exchange information on the various ongoing activities and to discuss possible ways of further strengthening the mechanism. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the RCM and its Clusters to discuss important issues of concern, including timely reporting of activities and achievements of Clusters and Subclusters to the RCM Secretariat, in the preparations for the upcoming 11th Session of the RCM to be held in November 2010.
5. Within this general objective, the consultation meeting had the following specific objectives:

- i. To discuss on updates regarding the mechanism and its Cluster system following the 10th Session of the RCM that was held on 5 and 6 November 2009.
 - ii. To review and discuss ongoing and planned activities of the RCM and its Clusters including the Ten-Year Capacity Building programme, Business Plans and joint planning, Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism, etc...
 - iii. To discuss on the recommendations of the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th meetings of the RCM and to explore how best to implement them, if they have not been implemented.
 - iv. To discuss on key issues regarding coordination and information exchange across the different Clusters/Subclusters within RCM-Africa, exchange experiences of best practice, challenges encountered and propose solutions on how to move forward.
6. The main discussions of the meeting evolved around the following specific issues.
- a) Information sharing from the AUC and from Clusters/Subclusters on progress, best practices and challenges;
 - b) Business plan and Joint planning (including resource mobilization);
 - c) Communication and advocacy;
 - d) Mainstreaming cross cutting issues: gender, climate change, employment etc;
 - e) Reporting mechanism;
 - f) Monitoring and Evaluation; and
 - g) Relationship between RCM-Africa and RDTs.
7. As per the attached agenda, the meeting heard presentations from the RCM Secretariat (both from the AUC and ECA), the Social and Human Development Cluster, the Peace and Security Cluster as well as interventions from other Clusters and Subclusters. The discussions focused on the experiences, best practices and challenges encountered by Clusters in undertaking their coordination and implementation of their respective Cluster activities. Unfortunately due to prior engagements the UN Resident Coordinators Office was not able to present on “Joint planning and programming, resource mobilization and monitoring and evaluation (UNDAF processes) at the Country Level”.
8. The RCM Secretariat also took advantage of this opportunity to inform the meeting of the progress made with regard to the review of the Ten Year Capacity Building Programme for the African Union (TYCBP-AU), which is underway in line with the provisions of the Framework Agreement, and in accordance with the recommendations of the 10th Session of the RCM. The Consultant recruited for the review attended the meeting and was introduced to the Cluster and Subcluster Coordinators and Co-coordinators who attended the meeting. The participants agreed to extend their cooperation in an open

and frank manner during the planned consultations with the consultant for the successful completion of the review considering that the review is an important exercise that will have significant implications for the effective implementation of the TYCBP-AU in the context of the RCM.

Proceedings and recommendations

9. Following the presentations and stimulating discussions on the items proposed in the programme, the meeting made the following observations and recommendations:
 - a. The meeting noted that this Consultation meeting was a timely one and has contributed to a common and better understanding of the challenges and issues in relation to how Clusters, Subclusters and the Secretariat function and the responsibilities of each Cluster and Subcluster Coordinators and Co-coordinators in achieving the key recommendations of the RCM-Africa annual meetings. The meeting recommended that a similar consultation meeting be called regularly once a year mid-term between two RCM annual meetings.
 - b. The meeting recognized the centrality of the role played by the RCM-Secretariat in coordination and facilitation activities to ensure the implementation of the recommendations made at the RCM-Africa annual meetings, and thanked the Secretariat for organizing this important meeting. The meeting further underlined the need for the RCM-Secretariat to enhance its role as a Strategic Coordinator and find ways to assist Clusters in a more substantive way by providing guidance, templates or modules in areas of business planning, mainstreaming cross-cutting issues (gender, employment, climate etc.), Monitoring and Evaluation and others.
 - c. The meeting agreed that Clusters prepare their Business Plans for a period of 2-3 years, and their work plan on an annual basis. To this end, the meeting underscored that all business plans should be inspired or be prepared on the basis of AU/NEPAD Action plans and strategic priorities. The Business Plans should have, among others, clear objectives, expected outputs, indicators of achievement, timelines, clearly defined responsibilities, and indications of resources required. The RCM-Secretariat has agreed to provide a template for further guidance in this regard.
 - d. The meeting underlined the need for timely reporting on Cluster activities so that the RCM-Secretariat will have adequate time to compile and consolidate all Cluster reports for the upcoming 11th RCM meeting in November 2010. To this end, the meeting agreed that

Cluster and Subcluster reports be submitted to the Secretariat by end of August 2010 the latest.

Way Forward

10. The AUC will provide information on the following:
 - a. Establishment of a NEPAD Unit in the Office of the Chairperson. This Office will also deal with RCM matters.
 - b. African Woman Decade for the RCM-Africa Secretariat to distribute to all Clusters and Subclusters.

11. All presenters to make their presentations available to the RCM-Africa Secretariat for distribution to all participants.

12. RCM-Africa Secretariat to provide all Clusters and Subclusters the following:
 - a. Format for reporting;
 - b. Format for a Business Plan;
 - c. Format for a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan;
 - d. Guidelines on how to mainstream cross-cutting issues in the activities of Clusters and Subclusters;
 - e. Organize a similar consultation meeting every year in between two RCM annual meetings.

13. RCM Clusters and Subclusters to submit their reports to the RCM-Africa Secretariat by end of August 2010 the latest.

14. On the TYCBP-AU it was agreed that:
 - a. The consultant will hold bilateral consultation meetings with Coordinators and Co-coordinators according to agreed timetable,
 - b. Cluster and Subcluster Coordinators and Co-coordinators to validate the outcome of their consultations with the consultant; and
 - c. RCM-Africa Secretariat to distribute TOR for the consultancy and other relevant documents including a questionnaire for the review with Cluster and Subcluster Coordinators and Co-coordinators.

Annex: I

Draft Agenda

1. Welcome and opening remarks – *RCM Secretariat (AUC and ECA)*
2. Presentation and Discussion on Strengthening RCM –Africa *RCM Secretariat (AUC)*
 - a. *Integration of NEPAD into the Structures and Processes of the African Union*
 - b. *AUC's active involvement in RCM-Africa including RCM-Secretariat and TYCBP*
3. Presentation on Strengthening RCM –Africa with emphasis on the recommendations from 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th meetings of the RCM – *RCM Secretariat (ECA)*
 - a. *Business Plan and Joint planning (including, resource mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation, Addressing cross-cutting issues)*
 - b. *Need for information sharing*
 - c. *Reporting mechanism*
 - d. *Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism*
 - e. *Relationship between RCM-Africa and RDTs*
4. Discussion on challenges and constraints in implementing the recommendations from 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th meetings of the RCM and way forward
5. Presentation from Cluster Coordinators on Challenges and Constraints and Lessons Learnt – *Social and Human Development Cluster Coordinator, Peace and Security Coordinator*
6. Presentation and discussion on Joint planning and programming, resource mobilization and monitoring and evaluation (UNDAF processes) at the Country Level – *UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Ethiopia*
7. Conclusions and the way forward – *RCM Secretariat (AUC and ECA)*

Annex: II

Draft programme of Work Wednesday, 30 June 2010

- 09:30–9:45 **Welcoming Remarks**
Mr. Emmanuel Nnadozie, Director, Economic Development and NEPAD Division of ECA
AUC (TBC)
- 9:45 – 10:05 Presentation and Discussion on Strengthening RCM –Africa – I
Moderator: *H.E. Mrs. Bience P. Gawanas, Commissioner for Social Affairs, AUC*
Presenter: *RCM Secretariat -AUC*
- 10:05– 10:20 *Coffee break*
- 10:20– 11:00 Discussions on Strengthening RCM –Africa – I
Moderator: *H.E. Mrs Bience P. Gawanas, Commissioner for Social Affairs, AUC*
- 11:00 – 11:20 Presentation on Strengthening RCM –Africa – II
Moderator: *Cluster Coordinator*
Presenter: *RCM Secretariat – ECA*
- 11:20– 12:30 Discussions on challenges and constraints in implementing the recommendations from 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th Session of the RCM and way forward
Moderator: *Cluster Coordinator*
- 12:30 - 14:00 *Lunch break*
- 14:00 - 15:15** Presentation and Discussion from Cluster Coordinators on Challenges and Constraints and Lessons Learnt
Moderator: *Ms. Litha Musyimi-Ogana, Director of Women, Gender and Development, AUC*
Presenters: *Ms. Florence Butegwa, UNIFEM, Social and Human Development Cluster Coordinator*
Mr. Baboucarr-Blaise Ismaila Jagne, UNLO, Peace and Security Cluster Coordinator
- 15:15 – 15:30 *Coffee break*
- 15:30 – 16:30 Presentation and Discussion on Joint planning and programming, resource mobilization and monitoring and evaluation (UNDAF processes) at the Country Level
Moderator: *TBC*
Presenter: *UN Resident Coordinator’s Office in Ethiopia*
- 16:30- 17:00 Way Forward and Closing

Annex: III

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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